

## ONE MAN'S OPINIONS

BY N. D. COCHRAN

**His Master's Work.**—Speaking of Rev. Elmer L. Williams, the Herald says editorially:

"So this minister of the gospel, who is trying to do his duty and his Master's work by helping to make the world about him cleaner, who has refused to be blinded by the outward whiteness of the sepulcher to the dead men's bones within, is charged on the first pages of the evening papers as a 'law violator' merely because a loose-lipped lawyer called him so."

All this comes about from the prosecution of Washington Porter for owning a building that was used as a shady hotel. In order to get the goods on the millionaire Porter, the "Rev." Williams accosted a woman on the street—in fact, he solicited the woman and persuaded her to go with him and a stool pigeon to the hotel, in order that she might earn \$3, which she said she needed.

And the Herald has the gall to call this "his Master's work" and "helping to make the world about him cleaner."

There is nothing I have read in the New Testament or out of it to indicate that the Master was that kind of a man. He never solicited women. He never tempted them. He never took them to a shady hotel in order to get the goods on somebody else.

On the contrary, when the woman caught in sin was brought before Him, and her persecutors asked judgment against her that they might stone her, the Master said:

"Let him who is without guilt cast the first stone," and when her persecutors had slunk away, the Master said to the woman: "Neither do I condemn you. Go and sin no more."

Instead of being soft-soaped editorially in a great newspaper that makes some pretense of morality, I think this preacher ought to have

been arrested and prosecuted for accosting a woman on the street.

If he hadn't had a "Rev." in front of his name, he probably would have been. But he is a reformer and can get away with stuff like that.

However, I am glad the Herald printed that editorial. It gives me a line on the Herald's outlook on life.

Personally, I can see no virtue in the detective who tempts a man to commit crime in order to get the goods on him, or in the preacher who will tempt a woman to sin in order to get the goods on a millionaire who owns property rented for immoral purposes.

This particular minister, "who is trying to do his duty and his Master's work by helping to make the world about him cleaner," accosted a woman on the street, persuaded her to go to a shady hotel with him, got two adjoining rooms, took a stool pigeon with him, ordered beer and then flashed a "star," and plied her with questions in order to get evidence against the hotel.

The woman went to the hotel, all right. She expected to get \$3 from Rev. Williams. It didn't appear in the testimony in court that she got the \$3, but her name was dragged into the mess and she has been humiliated and publicly pilloried.

Williams got a conviction of the millionaire owner of one shady hotel—I care nothing about that. But I do think he played a low-down trick on the woman; and I know nothing about her at all except what appeared in the evidence in court.

Personally, I would feel less shame walking along the street with the woman than with the man who lured her to the hotel, even if the man does call himself a minister of the gospel.

My opinion is not based on anything a loose-lipped lawyer said about this preacher; it is based on what the preacher shamelessly admits he did.

**The Prevailing Style.**—Most big